



# The Ames Intelligencer

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## A Year With A Pioneer Family Annual Meeting: January 20, 1992

Experience the rhythms of pioneer farm life through a performance based on the lives of those who settled Iowa's fertile prairies. "A Year with a Pioneer Family" will be presented at the Ames Heritage Association's annual meeting scheduled for Monday, Jan. 20, 1992 at 7:00p.m. in the Ames Public Library Auditorium. Costumed readers from the Living History Farms Readers Theater will present the program. The program is free of charge to all interested persons.

Living History Farm staff have woven together passages from diaries, newspapers, letters, and Midwestern poetry into a performance to

capture the intimate feelings and daily routines from early farm life. Through retelling stories and readings based on original documents those attending can glimpse time passage through the eyes of rural folk. The cycle of planting, summer, harvest, and winter, each coming around again with its chores and pleasures, will be explored. Living History Farms is a 600-acre outdoor agriculture museum on the outskirts of Des Moines where historical interpreters create the daily routines of Iowa's rural heritage. For the past four years, the Farm's Readers Theater has been performing at the farm

and throughout the state.

All members of the Ames Heritage Association and the general public are invited to this special program. Board members will present a brief update about association projects during the past year, and elections of board members and officers for 1992 will be held. The Readers Theater program will follow the business meeting. Memberships in the Ames Heritage Association, a limited number of 1992 Ames historical calendars, and the "Faces of Our Founders" book will be available for sale.

For more information about the annual meeting and the Ames Heritage Association, contact president Kathy Svec at 232-4877 or 294-8081.



*Living History Farms Readers Theater*

### Rodney T. Fox

The Ames Heritage Association fondly remembers Rodney T. Fox who recently died at age 84. Rodney was a charter board member of the organization and its first secretary. He served as the first editor of this newsletter. As a result of his efforts, in 1982 the Heritage Association received an award for "best newsletter" from the State Historical Society. Rodney died December 29th of respiratory failure.



# Photographic Archive Ready for Use

By Sharon Wirth



*Farwell Tilden Brown*

Following nearly two years of preparation, the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive is ready for use by citizens of

Ames. Through the cooperative efforts of the Ames Heritage Association and the Ames Public Library, Brown's lifetime collection of photographs chronicling the history of Ames has been catalogued and is accessible to the public. Materials in the Archive are housed in the Iowa Room of the library and must be used with the assistance of Library staff.

George Lawson, director of the Ames Public Library, credits a state grant with making the project possible. A grant of \$4,874 was awarded to the Ames Heritage Association by the Historic Resources Development Program, a component of the REAP program. The total cost was \$14,254, including \$7,790 of inkind services from the Ames Heritage Association and the Ames Public Library. Kathy Svec, president of the Ames Heritage Association, comments "in being eligible to apply for the grant, the association was in the right place at the right time. It has been very satisfying to be a catalyst for this project which will give Ames a truly remarkable resource for discovering its past. The size and scope of the collection and now the accessibility of it may well be unique in the state of Iowa."

Janet Klaas, information services librarian, organized and cataloged the collection. Four components comprise the collection: the shelf list, catalog cards, the negative file,

and the print file. The components are linked together through photo identification numbers. The shelf list is organized according to the ID number, while the negative file is the source of the collection. The public will generally use the catalog card which is filed by subject. One subject heading is date so patrons can locate photos from a specific time period easily. Other subjects are filed chronologically within each subject heading. The catalog card is in the format of an aperture card with a contact photo on each card. This enables the user to see the photo referred to, in miniature, while using the catalog card. Personal copies of

sible, individuals are fully named, date of the original photograph is given, location is noted, and names of businesses or associations are listed both specifically and generically. Klaas approached the indexing from a user's perspective. "Farwell (Brown) makes it interesting. The stories he tells that go with the pictures are fascinating," notes Klaas.

The photo collection chronicles Ames' history according to Brown's viewpoint. This interest was stimulated in the late 1960's when following the death of his parents, Brown inherited his grandparents' and parents' photographs and paper documents. In 1975 he presented his first slide show, at the local Rotary club,



*Farwell Brown on old high wheeler in 1934.*

the photos, with donor permission, are available either as photocopies or photographic prints. For photographic prints, individuals pay the cost of the print plus a \$2 library service charge.

"This collection is unique because of its size and the depth of indexing. Brown's knowledge and assistance with developing a description for each unique photograph has enabled extensive indexing," says Lawson. A single photograph may have up to 26 subject headings depending upon the complexity of its subject. If pos-

on Ames history based on his photograph collection. By the end of 1976 (when a local history festival was organized for the U.S. Centennial), the slides had been shown over 200 times.

Thus, a second career (Brown retired from the Iowa Department of Transportation in 1976) was launched. By now many folks identified Brown as the Ames historian and began to bring their photographs, other paper documents and stories to him for incorporation into his collection. Brown is quick to emphasize he has only



7.25.1-2

BROWN, FARWELL T.  
VEISHEA  
PARADES  
1934



NOTE: Farwell Brown on old highwheeler in 1934 VIESHEA parade.  
Taken in front of Chemistry Building on ISC campus.

*Catalog card from the Farwell T. Brown Photographic Archive for picture with high wheeler.*

collected the photos. They come from a wide variety of sources including Brown's family collection, contributions by various individuals, ISU Special Collections, ISU yearbooks, Ames Public Library, his wife's family collection and those purchased personally by Brown.

Listed as Brown's favorites are the hand-colored German-made postcards depicting the early appearance of the Depot and its outstanding landscaping. He has paid as much as \$15 each for many of the German postcards. The most he has paid for a single photo was \$25 paid in the mid-70's. This was for a large

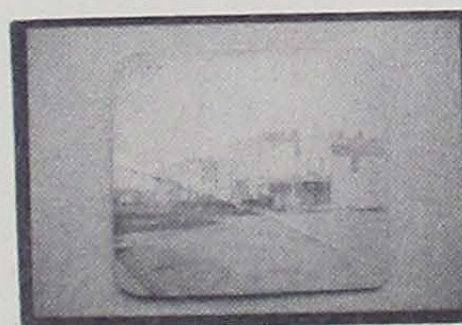
760 35mm negative strips.

"This is truly an extraordinary gift," says Svec of the collection. However, there is always more to collect. The Ames Heritage Association and Lawson encourage donations to the Ames Public Library of photos and paper documents. Klaas quickly adds "we also need

the information and stories that go with the documents." Meanwhile, Svec and the Ames Heritage Association are looking forward to spring when the organization plans to sponsor a workshop for the public about using the collection. Working with Klaas, both groups are anxious to let the community know about this marvelous resource.

5.23A.4; 5.23B.1-2

ONONDAGA STREET  
MAIN STREET  
AMES DRUG STORE  
STORES, DRUG  
BIGELOW, HUNTINGTON & TILDEN  
STORES, CLOTHING  
1875@



NOTE: Photo in about 1875 looking northwesterly at corner of Onondaga (Main) and Douglas. The Ames Drug Store on the corner was operated by S. O. Osborn. Frame store to left; built in 1867 by D. and S. L. Lucas, was purchased in spring of 1868 by D. A. Bigelow and H. C. Huntington; they were joined in partnership by George G. Tilden in 1869. Tilden became sole owner of that mercantile business in 1883. The brick building next west

(over)

*Catalog Card from archive for the 1875 photo of Main Street (shown on p.4). The catalog cards alone contain a wealth of information about Ames' history.*



# Ames Looked Good 57 Years Ago — and Still Does, O.N. Bauge

## Ames Veteran Shoe Man Has Seen Progress of City for 57 Years

In 1876 Ames was a sprawling little village which was trying to pull itself out of the mud and sloughs of early Iowa prairie. It was an ugly town—its streets being merely a succession of mud-holes and its residential section a far cry from the attractive and park-like area it is today.

Nevertheless, the town looked good to the youth who walked into it July 5th of that year with all his earthly possessions in his pockets. Fifty-seven years have passed, during which O.N. Bauge (for he was the youth) has been continuously connected with business along Main Street. He has seen astounding commercial growth and civic, social and educational development. Churches, schools, homes, business growth—all

have been watched with increasing interest by Mr. Bauge through the years. Ames still looks good to this veteran business man and he sees no reason why the town should ever cease to carry on, in a most definite constructive manner.

Shortly after his arrival in Ames, Mr. Bauge came to an agreement with a Mr. Hirsch, who operated a department store. Mr. Bauge swept the store, waited on trade and learned the elements of retail merchandizing for four years. He then worked for the firm of Thomas Brothers and Soper for a short time and then formed an affiliation with the Tilden store which lasted 16 years.

In 1920, Mr. Bauge launched himself into the shoe business and has

operated his store at the same location, across the street from the Union National Bank, since that time.

Mr. Bauge was born in Norway but came to the United States with his parents in 1861. The family settled in Story county near Cambridge in 1865 and Mr. Bauge has made Story county his home

since that time. Mr. Bauge has a vivid memory of the early Story county pioneer life. Wild geese and ducks flew over the city in huge flocks. Cattle grazed on land which is now the location of some of the city's most beautiful homes.

Travel in those days was governed largely by the weather. A heavy shower on the ungraded dirt roads immediately rendered them impassable, Mr. Bauge states. In the spring rainy season transportation came to a complete halt and the only mode of locomotion the pioneers possessed was walking or horseback.

The roads followed the ridges and high ground in order to avoid the bogs, sloughs and ponds which were scattered throughout the county. Travel from one point to another, for this reason, was a circuitous route and hours often were consumed in travel which would take only a few minutes now. The streets in Ames were especially muddy, it seemed, and even the four-seated wagon which hauled freight and passengers between Ames and the college sometimes, became mired. Herman Knapp, present business manager of Iowa State, was once a driver of this wagon, Mr. Bauge states.

In those days Mr. Bauge recalls, there were many who were doubtful of the future of Ames. They thought the town would never grow up. Choice lots could be purchased for merely paying the taxes on them.

However, Mr. Bauge believed in Ames. He decided to stay by the ship and his faith has been justified.

**Editors Note:** This story appeared in the June 18, 1931 edition of "The Milepost". Special thanks to Marguerite and Elden Bauge for sharing it with us. O.N. Bauge was one of Nils and Synneva Bauge's children and Elden Bauge's uncle. The family was the first Bauge generation to occupy the Bauge Log House which is being restored under the direction of the Ames Heritage Association. The house has been relocated from its original site to McFarland Park, northeast of Ames.



*This 1909 photograph shows the Bauge Shoe store located at Main and Douglas operated by the Bauge family for 46 years. The building was acquired by the City of Ames in 1967. It was removed to provide a walk-through access to the parking lot south of the business district. The street car to the left is part of the inter-urban railroad, bound for Des Moines.*



*Ames in 1875, a year before O.N. Bauge arrived. This photo was taken looking northwesterly at the corner of Onondaga (Main) and Douglas.*



## Join us June 12-13 at the 1992

### Congress of Historical Organizations & Iowa Time Expo

Mark down Friday and Saturday, June 12 and 13, on your calendars. That's when the fifth annual Congress of Historical Organizations (COHO) takes place at the State Historical Building in Des Moines. The 1992 COHO promises to be extra special as it will be held in conjunction with the Iowa Humanities Board's "Iowa Time Expo," the culmination of IHB's Iowa Time Project.

The Iowa Time Expo will feature products from various communities and organizations that participated in the Iowa Time project (which was designed to expand Iowans' awareness of their local history and culture). Many of these are video projects, some are dramatic presentations, and others are photographs or published materials. An emphasis on how history and journalism interact will also be provided by the

Iowa Time Expo. Many Iowa authors will be among the presenters this weekend.

Along with how-to workshops, the 1992 COHO will include presentations of scholarly papers on Iowa history. These and many other activities will be offered Friday afternoon and again on Saturday morning and afternoon. On Friday evening, the State Historical Society of Iowa will hold its annual membership meeting and banquet. On Saturday evening, the Iowa Humanities Board plans to hold its annual lecture.

Anyone with an interest in Iowa history is invited to attend. Pre-registration forms will be mailed to members of historical and genealogical groups in May. For Details, contact Loren Horton or Ellen Stoltz, SHSI, 402 Iowa Ave., Iowa City, Iowa 52240, (319) 3353916.

## Annual Meeting

On January 20, 1992, the annual meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. in the Ames Public Library Auditorium. For details see story on page 1.

## Ames Heritage Association Officers

President Kathy Svec  
603 Grand Avenue, Ames  
232-4877

Vice-President Don Faas  
4419 Ross Road, Ames  
232-1613

Secretary Ann Watts  
3619 Mary Circle, Ames  
292-5228

Treasurer Bill LaGrange  
2800 Torrey Pines Road, Ames  
292-4131

Editor Sharon Wirth  
803 Burnett, Ames  
233-2415

Ames Official Historian  
Farwell T. Brown  
1802-20th Street, Ames  
232-9444

The Ames Heritage Association meets the third Monday of every month (September through June) at 7:00 p.m. at Willson-Beardshear School, 920 Carroll, Ames.

The annual membership meeting is held the third Monday of January. Time and place are announced in advance.

*The Ames Intelligencer* is published three times a year—winter, spring, and fall.

## Change In Bylaws Proposed

In Order to eliminate conflicts between the Ames Heritage Association's bylaws and articles of incorporation, the board of directors will ask the membership at the annual meeting to vote on the following changes in the bylaws:

### Article III. Board of Directors

Section 2. Membership. There shall be ~~fifteen~~ nine or more members of the board of Directors who shall also be members of the association.

### Article IV. Officers

Section 5. Duties of the Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the meeting of the association and of the Board of Directors, ~~shall maintain a list of members~~, and render an annual report.

### Article IV. Officers

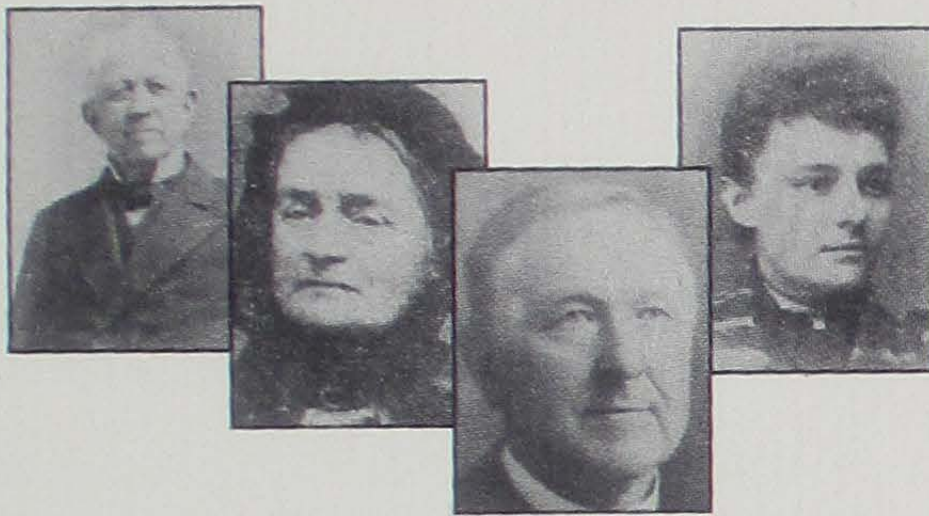
Section 6. Duties of the Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be responsible for the safekeeping of funds of the association and for maintaining adequate financial records. The Treasurer or Membership Chair designated by the Board of Directors shall maintain a list of members. Monies received by the treasurer shall be immediately deposited with a financial institution, and no monies shall be paid out except by numbered checks, ~~signed by the Treasurer and one other officer of the association.~~ Monies in excess of \$250.00 shall be paid out by numbered checks signed by the Treasurer and one other officer of the association. The Treasurer will collect dues and shall render an annual report to the association, as well as periodic reports to the Board of Directors.



# The Ames Heritage Association announces the publishing of

## **FACES OF OUR FOUNDERS: THE EARLY LEADERS OF AMES, IOWA**

Compiled by the  
*Ames Heritage Association*



From Writings by Farwell Brown, Ames Historian;  
With Contributions by Kathy Svec, Ruth Jackson,  
Joan Baker, Joy Munn, Edna Svec, Suzanne Kelly,  
William Peterson, Sharon Wirth, and Robert Hilton;  
and Adaptations from Gladys Meads

A 40-page book based on the materials gathered for Ames' 125th anniversary exhibition. Featured are a detailed time line through 1916, 22 biographies of early leaders and 35 photographs of personalities, families and places.

# \$6.00

On sale at University Bookstore (local interest section), Travel Genie, Brunnier Gallery Shop, The Octagon Shop, and Mary Greeley Hospitality Shop.

Proceeds from sale of the book will help to fund the Bauge House Restoration and other Ames Heritage Association projects.

The Ames Intelligencer  
Ames Heritage Association  
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